

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated June 16, 2004, claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 14-17 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-13 stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for reconsideration.

Applicants acknowledge the election of Group I, claims 1-13.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Omand* (4,660,281). Claims 6 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the *Omand* reference. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner states that the piston assembly is illustrated in Fig. 2, reference numeral 15. The reference numeral 15 is referred to in the specification as a thrust rod 15 for extending and retracting the thrust rod. Applicants do not agree that the thrust rod 15 is a piston assembly. However, various other features are also not shown as described below.

With reference to Figs. 9-12, claim 1 recites a tool 140 for removing a first connector portion 22 having a retraction feature. The tool 140 includes a piston assembly 141 having a sliding channel therethrough. The tool further includes a cross-member 156 slidably receiving the piston assembly. The cross-member has a slot 162 therein. The cross-member 156 has a post head 158 sized to be received within the retraction feature 52. A pin 160 is positioned within the channel and is slidably received within the slot.

The Examiner refers to Fig. 2, line 20, for a cross-member. This feature is arguably a cross-member. However, it does not appear that the cross-member pointed to by the Examiner slidably receives the piston assembly. It appears that the piston assembly is fixably mounted on the cross-member. As recited in claim 1, the cross-member has a slot therein. The Examiner fails to point to a slot. Pinholes for pins 23 illustrated in Fig. 5 are shown. However, the pins are not slidably received within the piston assembly. The pins remain fixably in place to hold yoke 20 to flat fingers 22 and 24.

Claim 1 also recites that the cross-member has a post head sized to be received within the retraction feature. Although 42a and 44a are post heads, they are

coupled to members 45 and 46 which in turn are slidably received within the cross-member. The cross-member itself does not have a post head as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 also recites a pin position within the channel and slidably received within the slot. Although pins 23 are illustrated in Fig. 5, they are not slidably received within a slot. The pins are received within holes on the member 20 and are not slidably received therein. The holes appear to conform to the size of the pins so they would not be slidably received. Also, Fig. 2 illustrates the pins 23 but fails to label them. As can be seen, pin 23 is clearly used as an assembly device. Further, the pins 23 are well above the circuit board. The Examiner must consider not only the presence of the individual components but also the operation recited therein. Due to the several deficiencies above, each and every element of claim 1 is not recited in the reference.

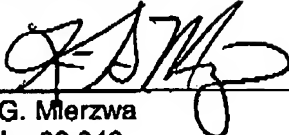
Claim 10 is also an independent claim which recites more detail with respect to the piston assembly. Claim 10 recites a piston having a handle disposed on the first end and a channel disposed on the second end. Claim 10 further recites a grip having an opening therethrough for slidably receiving the piston and a spring located on the piston between the handle and the grip. The spring urging the handle away from the grip. A sleeve is adjacent to the grip for slidably receiving the piston. A cross-member is adjacent to the sleeve. The cross-member has a slot therein. The cross-member has a post head. The tool further comprises a pin positioned within the channel and slidably received within the slot. The deficiencies noted above with respect to claim 1 with respect to the cross-member having a post head and a pin slidably received within the slot are not taught or suggested in the *Omand* reference. Further, the spring is recited that is positioned between the handle and the grip. Springs in the *Omand* reference are positioned near the heads within the device. Therefore, the placement of the springs is in a completely different place. Also, the *Omand* reference is not clear as to whether or not a piston exists. The *Omand* reference has several deficiencies and therefore claim 10 is also believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-9 and 10-12 are also believed to be allowable since they are further limitations on their base claim.

In light of the above remarks, applicants submit that all rejections are now overcome. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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